

Indian Springs 1999 Test Results for Water

Test Results

All data is based upon 1999 analysis, except in the case of contaminants for which annual testing is not required.

SUBSTANCE	RANGE	AVERAGE	MCL (EPA LIMIT)	MCLG (EPA GOAL)	Possible Source
Arsenic (1998)	3 – 4 ppb	3.5 ppb	50 ppb	N/A	Erosion of natural de- posits
Barium (1998)	0.038- 0.12 ppm	0.077 ppm	2 ppm	2 ppm	Drilling waste, erosion of natural deposits
Selenium (1998)	2 – 5 ppb	3.5 ppb	50 ppb	50 ppb	Discharge from petro- leum and metal refin- eries; Erosion of natural deposits; Discharge mines from mines
Nitrate	ND-1.1 ppm	0.55 ppm	10 ppm	10 ppm	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from sep- tic tanks; erosion of natural deposits
Sodium (unregulated]	16 – 83 ppm	50 ppm	N/A	N/A	Erosion of natural deposits
Sulfate (unregulated) (1998)	100- 360 ppm	210 ppm	N/A	N/A	Erosion of natural deposits
Lead	ND (90th percentile)	N/A	15 ppb*	50 ppb	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural de- posits
Copper	0.107 ppm (90th percentile)	N/A	1.3 ppm*	1.3 ppm	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural de- posits; leaching from wood preservatives
Combined Radium	0.3 – 1.1 pCi/L	0.7 pCi/L	5 pCi/L	0 pCi/L	Erosion of natural deposits
Gross Alpha Activity) (1997)	3.3 – 16 pCi/L	11.7 pCi/L	15 pCi/L	0 pCi/L	Erosion of natural deposits; decay of man-made deposits
Gross Beta Activity (1997)	2.5 – 12 pCi/L	7.2 pCi/L	50 pCi/L**	0 pCi/L	Erosion of natural deposits; decay of man-made deposits
Total Coliforms	0 Positive	N/A	1 Positive	0 Positive	Naturally present in the en- vironment

* Action level: 90% of samples taken must be below this amount

** The actual MCL for beta particles is 4 mrem/year. EPA considers 50 pCi/l to be the level of concern for beta particles

Important Definitions

Maximum contaminant level goal (MCLG) – The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

Maximum contaminant level (MCL) – The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

Action level – The concentration, which, if exceeded, triggers a treatment, or other requirement, which a water system must follow.

ppb – Part per billion – A unit used to describe the levels of detected contaminants. Equivalent to about 1 dissolved aspirin tablet in a 100,000 gallon (25 meter) swimming pool.

ppm – Part per million – A unit used to describe the levels of detected contaminants. Equivalent to about ½ of a dissolved aspirin tablet in a full bathtub of water (about 50 gallons).

pCi/L – Picocuries per liter – a measure of radioactivity in water. Low levels of radiation occur natu-
rally in many water systems, including the Colorado River.

ND – Not detected.

Source Water

The Indian Springs Air Force Auxillery Field Public Water System is operated by Cabaco, Inc. Water comes from two wells that are recharged from ground water aquifers. The well 62-01 is located on Third Street and well 106-02 is located on Second Street.

Indian Springs currently has monitoring waivers for certain chemical contaminants regulated by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). A monitoring waiver means that Indian Springs does not have to test the water for these contaminants at the frequency required by the EPA.

In order to receive a waiver, the Nevada State Health Division conducted a vulnerability assessment. The assessment established that the water system is unlikely to be contaminated by these chemicals based on a study of 1) the geology of the area; 2) past and current land use; and 3) the existence of potential sources of contamination.

For details about the specific chemicals for which there are monitoring waivers, please call Bioenvironmental Engineering Flight at (702) 653-3316.

Treatment Process

Indian Springs water supply is a protected ground water source and it does not require the level of treatment associated with surface water sources. Once pumped from the ground, the water is disinfected using liquid chlorine.

Testing

Every month, Cabaco personnel collect water samples from Indian Springs water supply and send them to Nevada Environmental Laboratories (NEL) for analysis. The results are reviewed and maintained by Bioenvironmental Engineering Flight at Nellis to ensure compliance with the Safe Drinking Water Act.

Primary Water Analysis Results

Indian Springs water supply is tested for more than 100 substances, but only those that were detected are listed in the “Test Results” table.

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that



Photo Image

Desert landscaping similar to what is seen here, surrounds the local area.

water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency’s Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.

Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

1. Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems and wildlife.



Photo Image

Sources of drinkinf water include lakes such as this one.

2. Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or result from urban storm runoff and industrial or domestic wastewater discharges.

3. Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban storm water runoff and residential use.

4. Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic or volatile organic chemicals, which are by products of industrial processes and can come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff and septic systems.

5. Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of industrial activities.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the EPA prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems.

Additional Health Information

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as those with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, who have undergone organ transplants, with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA and Center for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800) 426-4791.

Violations

Indian Springs public water system had no violations of the Safe Drinking Water Act standards in 1999.

Input and Information

This report will not be mailed to consumers. If you would like a copy or have questions, please contact Air Warfare Center Office of Public Affairs, Mr. Michael Estrada or Tech. Sgt. Richard Covington, at (702) 652-2750 or 1-800-859-3804. Questions can also be mailed to AWFC/PA, 4370 N. Washington Blvd., suite 223, Nellis Air Force Base, Nev. 89191-7078.

The EPA’s Safe Drinking Water Hotline can be reached at (800) 426-4791.